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16 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
17 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

18 In re

19 CLAAR CELLARS, LLC,  
20 Debtor.

Case No. 20-00044-WLH11

**HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION  
TO MOTION FOR ORDER: (a)  
AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY &  
INTERIM USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL; AND (b)  
AUTHORIZING FINAL USE OF  
CASH COLLATERAL**

21 HomeStreet Bank ("HomeStreet") submits this objection to the Debtor's Motion for  
22 Order: (a) Authorizing Emergency & Interim Use of Cash Collateral and (b) Authorizing Final  
23 Use of Cash Collateral (the "Motion"). The Debtor's Motion belies its historical losses for the  
24 last four (4) years in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and contradicts the testimony and  
25 evidence presented on December 6, 2019 (about a month before the Petition Date) and the  
26 findings of the Franklin County Superior Court when it appointed a receiver for the Debtor.  
The Debtor provides no financials or historical records which support its budget, projected  
income or the requested use of cash in its Motion. The Debtor also has not proposed actual  
adequate protection for HomeStreet Bank. It instead simply states that HomeStreet would  
retain its liens it had on the Petition Date and erroneously refers to that already existing right  
under the Code as a "Replacement Lien," which it clearly is not. The Debtor asks this Court to

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1 rely on future proceeds, which it currently does not have in place and has no historical basis to  
2 support. Additionally, the Motion should be denied because (i) it overreaches well beyond the  
3 provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and treats this case and the RC Farms, LLC ("RC Farms")  
4 chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding as substantively consolidated when they are not and cannot  
5 be consolidated without a substantial showing and an order of this Court, and (ii) it violates the  
6 priorities of the Bankruptcy Code by providing for the payment of prepetition expenses.  
7 Finally, the Debtor and RC Farms have a debtor/creditor relationship, which dictates that they  
8 have separate counsel instead of the same three (3) lawyers for both cases. HomeStreet relies  
9 upon the following points and authorities, the Declaration of Mark Johnson ("Johnson Dec.")  
10 and the Declaration of Jason M. Ayres ("Ayres Dec.") in support of this objection to the  
11 Debtor's Motion.

#### 12 BACKGROUND FACTS

13 HomeStreet made two loans to the Debtor and an additional loan to RC Farms each of  
14 which the Debtor is attempting to address in its Motion. Specifically, the Debtor executed and  
15 delivered to HomeStreet a Promissory Note dated August 22, 2016 in the principal amount of  
16 \$500,000.00 and interest at a variable rate with an initial rate of 5% payable upon demand, but  
17 if no demand, then on or before July 1, 2017 (the "Claar Note") for the purposes of obtaining a  
18 revolving line of credit. Johnson Dec., ¶ 3. The Claar Note is secured by a Mortgage dated  
19 August 22, 2016 executed by RC Farms, L.L.C. ("RC Farms") (the "Mortgage") against the real  
20 property commonly known as 1340 Glenwood Road, Pasco, Washington 99301 with real  
21 property tax identification number 126-390-140 (the "First Property"). *Id.* The Debtor  
22 additionally executed an Agricultural Security Agreement in favor of HomeStreet on August  
23 22, 2016 (the "ASA"), by which the Debtor granted a security interest in all inventory, chattel  
24 paper, accounts, equipment, general intangibles, crops, crop income, farm products and farm  
25 equipment (the "Personal Property"). *Id.* On or about August 25, 2016, HomeStreet filed a  
26 UCC Financing Statement with the Washington Secretary of State's office listing the personal

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1 property subject to the ASA and Claar Cellars as the debtor (the "UCC"). *Id.*

2 On or about July 28, 2017, the Debtor executed an amendment and restatement of the  
3 Claar Note in the amount of \$500,000.00 for a revolving line of credit with variable interest at  
4 the initial rate of 5.75%, which was payable upon demand, but if no demand was made, on or  
5 before July 1, 2018 (the "Amended Claar Note"). Johnson Dec., ¶ 4. To secure the Debtor's  
6 obligations under the Amended Claar Note, the Debtor executed an amendment and  
7 restatement of the ASA on or about July 28, 2017 (the "Amended ASA"), which in addition to  
8 the original collateral under the ASA, granted HomeStreet a security interest in Claar Cellars'  
9 commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, documents, goods, instruments, investment property,  
10 letter-of-credit rights, letters of credit, money and oil, gas or other minerals before extraction  
11 (collectively, the "Claar Personal Property"). *Id.*

12 The Debtor executed an additional Promissory Note dated July 12, 2018 in favor of  
13 HomeStreet in the amount of \$75,000.00 with interest at the stated rate of 5% and a maturity  
14 date of July 12, 2023 (the "Second Claar Note"). Johnson Dec., ¶ 5. The Debtor executed an  
15 Agricultural Security Agreement dated July 12, 2018 (the "Second Claar ASA") to secure the  
16 Debtor's performance under the Second Claar Note, which granted an additional security  
17 interest to HomeStreet in the Claar Personal Property. *Id.*

18 Through several Change in Terms Agreements, ultimately, the total commitment  
19 amount under the Amended Claar Note was increased to \$600,000.00. Johnson Dec., ¶ 6.  
20 Pursuant to a Change in Terms Agreement dated June 19, 2019, the maturity date on the  
21 Amended Claar Note was extended to September 1, 2019. *Id.*

22 RC Farms executed and delivered to HomeStreet a Promissory Note dated March 12,  
23 2018 in the principal amount of \$1,150,000.00 and interest at a variable interest rate with an  
24 initial rate of 5.71% and a maturity date of April 1, 2028 (the "RC Farms Note"). Johnson  
25 Dec., ¶ 7. The RC Farms Note is secured by a mortgage dated March 12, 2018 executed by RC  
26 Farms and the Whitelatch Trust (the "RC Mortgage") against the First Property and an

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1 additional parcel of real property located at the commonly known address of 1340 Glenwood  
2 Road, Pasco, Washington 99301 with real property tax identification number 126-390-110 (the  
3 "Second Property"). *Id.* The First Property and the Second Property are collectively referred to  
4 as the "Property". *Id.* The RC Mortgage was recorded in the real property records against the  
5 Property on March 19, 2018. *Id.* The Mortgage and the RC Mortgage are collectively referred  
6 to as the "Mortgages." *Id.*

7 HomeStreet accelerated the balance due under the Amended Claar Note, Second Claar  
8 Note and RC Farms Note by notice dated October 24, 2019 based upon numerous events of  
9 default including the Debtor's failure to pay in full the Amended Claar Note by its maturity date  
10 and the failure to cure payment defaults as of October 14, 2019 as demanded in HomeStreet's  
11 letter to the Debtor dated September 30, 2019. Johnson Dec., ¶ 8. To date, the Debtor has  
12 failed to cure the defaults. *Id.*

13 On November 7, 2019, HomeStreet filed a complaint against the Debtor, among other  
14 defendants, in Franklin County Superior Court for the State of Washington (the "State Court"),  
15 Case No. 19-251223-11, for replevin, breach of contract and appointment of general receiver  
16 (the "State Court Case"). Johnson Dec., ¶ 9. On December 6, 2019, the State Court held a  
17 hearing on the appointment of a receiver. *Id.* At the hearing, HomeStreet introduced and the  
18 State Court received into evidence certain projections that the Debtor provided to HomeStreet  
19 in May of 2019 (the "Claar Projections"). Johnson Dec., ¶ 10, Exhibit 2. The Claar  
20 Projections projected a loss of (\$14,265) in 2018. *Id.* Yet, the Debtor's tax returns for 2018  
21 indicated the losses were actually (\$379,039). *Id.* The Claar Projections projected a profit of  
22 \$72,191.00 for 2019, or \$47,655 through August 31, 2019. *Id.* However, as of September 2,  
23 2019, the company actually reported a loss of (\$48,217) for a (shortfall) from projections of  
24 (\$97,872). *Id.*

25 HomeStreet prepared a cash flow analysis from Debtor's tax returns from 2016, 2017  
26 and 2018. Johnson Dec., ¶ 11, Exhibit 3. A review of the Profit & Loss statements indicates

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1 P&L cash flow of \$163,575 in 2016, (negative) P&L cash flow of (\$1,326) in 2017 and  
2 (negative) P&L cash flow of (\$236,309) in 2018. *Id.* When working capital is factored into  
3 this analysis, including changes in accounts receivable, inventory and accounts payable, the  
4 Debtor had (negative) cash flow of (\$156,430) for 2016, (negative) cash flow of (\$225,933) for  
5 2017 and (negative) cash flow of (\$128,415) for 2018. *Id.* HomeStreet then factored in the  
6 Debtor's debt service to this analysis. *Id.* Once debt service was factored in, the analysis  
7 indicates that the Debtor had total cash deficits of (\$289,295) in 2016, (\$323,575) in 2017 and  
8 (\$249,645) in 2018. *Id.*

9 HomeStreet additionally introduced and the State Court received into evidence financial  
10 statements and a borrowing base certificate prepared by the Debtor and provided to HomeStreet  
11 in September of 2019. Johnson Dec. ¶ 13, Exhibits 5, 6 and 7. The actual sales of the Debtor  
12 as of September 2, 2019 were \$395,156, which is less than the Claar Projections by \$427,929  
13 (52%). *Id.* Further, when comparing the borrowing base certificate and the balance sheet,  
14 there is a decrease in inventory of \$739,597, with no corresponding increase in cash or  
15 accounts receivable. *Id.* Although the financials show this significant decrease in inventory,  
16 HomeStreet has not received a payment from the Debtor since August of 2019. *Id.*

17 Robert C. Whitelatch additionally testified at the State Court hearing on December 6,  
18 2019. Ayres Dec., ¶ 3.<sup>1</sup> He specifically testified that the Debtor and RC Farms intended to  
19 market and sell all personal and real property collectively as a whole in order to pay debts since  
20 the combined businesses are operating at a loss. *Id.* At no point during Mr. Whitelatch's  
21 testimony did he state that the businesses could or intended to obtain financing to reorganize or  
22 continue to operate. *Id.*

23 Mr. Whitelatch testified that the Debtor and RC Farms are incurring losses and that he  
24 was selling inventory and using the funds to operate the businesses at a loss. Ayres Dec., ¶ 4.  
25 Mr. Whitelatch further testified that the cash flow of the Debtor and RC Farms is insufficient to

26 <sup>1</sup> HomeStreet is in the process of getting a transcript of the State Court receivership hearing.

1 pay their debts. *Id.* When asked what he was doing to change the accelerating losses, Mr.  
2 Whitelatch stated "nothing terribly successful." *Id.* In fact, Mr. Whitelatch described the  
3 Eastern Washington wine market as oversaturated resulting in low prices, unsold inventory and  
4 difficult market conditions. *Id.*

5 Mr. Whitelatch was asked about inventory levels for the Debtor and RC Farms and he  
6 testified that he does not know what the inventory levels are. Ayres Dec., ¶ 5. In terms of  
7 monitoring inventory levels, Mr. Whitelatch testified that he plugs numbers into QuickBooks  
8 but he does not really know or understand what the numbers signify. *Id.*

9 Mr. Whitelatch was shown the cash flow analysis of the Debtor and RC Farms  
10 indicating negative cash flow based on a summary of income tax returns. Ayres Dec., ¶ 6. In  
11 response, he testified that he does not believe his tax returns accurately reflect cash flow even  
12 though he signed the returns under penalty of perjury. *Id.* Overall, Mr. Whitelatch testified  
13 that he was doing everything he could do but he did not know what else could be done to  
14 prevent further ongoing losses. Ayres Dec., ¶ 7. For these reasons, Mr. Whitelatch testified  
15 that the only way to pay the debts would be through the sale of property. *Id.*

16 On December 23, 2019, the State Court entered an order appointing Critical Point  
17 Advisors, LLC (the "Receiver") a custodial receiver for Debtor, RC Farms and the Whitelatch  
18 Trust (the "Order Appointing Receiver"). Johnson Dec., ¶ 9, Exhibit 1. The Order Appointing  
19 Receiver includes finding of fact confirming the validity of the applicable loan documents and  
20 amounts due and owing. *Id.* The Order Appointing Receiver additionally contains findings of  
21 fact that the Debtor's and RC Farm's cash deficits and costs from 2016 to 2018 were escalating,  
22 based upon their tax returns for those years, that the losses were continuing to increase for 2019  
23 based on financial statements provided by the Debtor and RC Farms to HomeStreet in 2019 and  
24 that the inventory levels decreased by \$739,597 between September 2, 2019 and September 28,  
25 2019 without a commensurate increase in cash or accounts receivable and without payment to  
26 HomeStreet. *Id.*

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1 The Order Appointing Receiver also contains conclusions of law, which found that the  
2 evidence presented supported a finding that the revenue-producing potential of the Claar  
3 Personal Property and HomeStreet's collateral is impaired and that remedies available to  
4 HomeStreet are inadequate. *Id.* The State Court further found that the appointment of a  
5 receiver is necessary to manage and operate the Claar Personal Property as well as RC Farms  
6 personal property and real property owned by RC Farms as well as the Whitelatch Trust, collect  
7 the rents, maintain, preserve and protect all personal property and real property pending the  
8 sheriff's foreclosure sale or a potential sale prior to foreclosure by the receiver, and to sell the  
9 Claar personal property pending resolution of the replevin and other claims. *Id.*

10 As of the petition date, there was a balance due under the Amended Claar Note of  
11 \$670,696.29, consisting of a principal balance of \$600,000.00, accrued interest of \$70,527.54,  
12 late charges of \$168.75, plus HomeStreet's expenses, fees and attorneys' fees and costs; a  
13 balance due under the Second Claar Note of \$63,504.41, consisting of a principal balance of  
14 \$60,282.05, accrued interest of \$2,938.76, late charges of \$283.60, plus HomeStreet's expenses,  
15 fees and attorneys' fees and costs; and a balance due under the RC Farms Note of  
16 \$1,186,833.38, consisting of a principal balance of \$1,110,409.53, accrued interest of  
17 \$63,026.75, late charges of \$5,672.10, fees of \$7,725.00, plus HomeStreet's expenses, fees and  
18 attorneys' fees and costs. Johnson Dec., ¶ 14. As of the petition date, HomeStreet's attorneys'  
19 fees and costs additionally totaled \$33,284.67. *Id.*

## 20 DISCUSSION

21 Section 363(e) of the Bankruptcy Code prohibits use of cash collateral or requires the  
22 court to condition such use by requiring the Debtor to provide adequate protection. Section 361  
23 addresses adequate protection and states that “[w]hen adequate protection is required under  
24 section ...363...of an interest of an entity in property, such adequate protection may be  
25 provided by”: (1) making cash payments to the extent of the decrease in the value of the  
26 secured creditor's interest in the property; (2) granting a replacement lien on **other** property to

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1 the extent of the decrease in the value of the secured creditor's interest in the property; or (3)  
2 "granting such other relief... as will result in the realization by such entity of the indubitable  
3 equivalent of such entity's interest in such property." (emphasis added). Furthermore, pursuant  
4 to 11 U.S.C. §363(p), the Debtor has the burden of proof on the issue of adequate protection.

5 Case law provides that the standard to be used for determining whether to allow the use  
6 of cash collateral includes the following:

7 (1) The court must establish the value of the secured creditor's interest;

8 (2) The court must identify risk to the secured creditor's value resulting from the  
9 debtor's request for use of cash collateral; and

10 (3) The court must determine whether the debtor's adequate protection proposal protects  
11 value as nearly as possible against risks to that value consistent with the concept of indubitable  
12 equivalence. *In re Negus-Sons, Inc.*, 428 B.R. 511, 515 (Bankr. D. Neb. 2009) *citing Martin v.*  
13 *United States (In re Martin)*, 761 F.2d 472, 476–77 (8th Cir.1985).

14 1. The Debtor is operating at a continued loss and cannot meet its budget.

15 Mr. Whitelatch testified at the receivership hearing that there is no possibility of a  
16 reorganization by the Debtor. Indeed, he specifically testified that the Debtor is operating at a  
17 loss, it will continue to operate at a loss and the only option is a complete sale of assets.  
18 Accordingly, the Debtor has already admitted that there is no reasonable possibility of a  
19 reorganization.

20 This is because of the recurring losses and the Debtor's failure to meet its own  
21 projections (which still indicated losses). As described above, those projections projected a  
22 loss of (\$14,265) in 2018, which was actually (\$379,039), where is \$364,774 more in **losses**  
23 than projected. The projections then projected a profit of \$72,191.00 for 2019 with profits of  
24 \$47,655 through August 31, 2019, yet as of September 2, 2019, there were losses of (\$48,217)  
25 for a shortfall from projections of (\$97,872). Johnson Dec., Exhibits 2 and 3. This can be  
26 attributed in part to the actual sales by the Debtor which totaled \$395,156 as of September 2,

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1 2019, which is considerably less than the Claar Projections by \$427,929 (**52% less**). *Id*  
2 Exhibits 2 and 5. The only truly consistent aspect of the Debtor's projections is that they are  
3 historically extremely inaccurate and overstate any results the Debtor could obtain.

4 As indicated above, the cash flow analysis from Debtor's tax returns from 2016, 2017  
5 and 2018 indicate negative cash flow on several levels. Johnson Dec., Exh. 3. First, a review of  
6 the Profit & Loss statements indicates P&L cash flow of \$163,575 in 2016, (negative) P&L  
7 cash flow of (\$1,326) in 2017 and (negative) P&L cash flow of (\$236,309) in 2018. *Id*. When  
8 working capital was factored into this analysis to account for changes in accounts receivable,  
9 inventory and accounts payable, the Debtor had (negative) cash flow of (\$156,430) for 2016,  
10 (negative) cash flow of (\$225,933) for 2017 and (negative) cash flow of (\$128,415) for 2018.  
11 *Id*. Once debt service was also factored in, the Debtor had total cash deficits of (\$289,295) in  
12 2016, (\$323,575) in 2017 and (\$249,645) in 2018 – a total cash deficit of (**\$862,515**) over that  
13 three year period of time. *Id*.

14 There are also significant concerns over missing inventory from the financial records,  
15 which the Debtor could not explain at the receivership hearing. The Debtor's financial records  
16 show a decrease in inventory of \$739,597 over the month of September 2019, with no  
17 corresponding increase in cash or accounts receivable. Johnson Dec., Exhibits 4, 6 and 7.  
18 Moreover, the Debtor's representative testified in State Court that he does not know what the  
19 inventory levels are. Ayres Dec., ¶ 5. Rather, he plugs numbers into QuickBooks without  
20 understanding what the numbers signify. *Id*. What we do know, is that the inventory levels  
21 listed in the Debtor's submissions are virtually identical to prior lists provided by the Debtor  
22 from January to September of 2019. All of this raises serious questions over the actual  
23 inventory on hand and value. In order to obtain a true value of the inventory, the Bank requires  
24 an inspection and appraisal of inventory.

25 Despite these historical records and admissions from the Debtor in State Court that it  
26 cannot operate without incurring losses, the Debtor now presents a budget showing positive net

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1 income and profits. This is not realistic. First, the sales projected in the budget are not  
2 supported by the historical sales of the Debtor or the current market. Indeed, the Debtor  
3 testified at the receivership hearing that the market is oversaturated in Eastern Washington.  
4 Ayres Dec., ¶ 4. This is again confirmed by the Debtor's financials which indicate actual sales  
5 as of September 2, 2019, which were \$427,929 below the Debtor's own projections. Johnson  
6 Dec., ¶ 13. Consequently, the revenue projections are simply unrealistic and unsupported by the  
7 last four years of results and current market conditions.

8 The Debtor's budget also fails to include certain expenses and improperly includes  
9 others. The budget does not have a line item for US Trustee fees, which must be added as an  
10 expense. The budget improperly includes legal and accounting fees as monthly payments  
11 which are professional fees/administrative expenses that cannot be paid on a monthly basis. 11  
12 U.S.C. § § 327(a) and 330. There is also a general line item for "draws" of \$4,500 per month  
13 that appears to be for prepetition work, in part, and is higher than paid prepetition. The budget  
14 also calls for payment to RC Farms for "vintage fruit" of \$156,000, which is actually a  
15 **prepetition obligation** for grapes already delivered by RC Farms prior to the petition date.  
16 These amounts cannot be made under the Bankruptcy Code because they are on account of  
17 prepetition amounts owed. Therefore, this additional line item must be removed. Courts  
18 cannot alter the balance struck by the Bankruptcy Code's priority provisions, not even in 'rare  
19 cases.' *Czyzewski v. Jevic Holding Corp.*, 137 S.G. 973, 987 (2017) (bankruptcy courts may not  
20 approve a structured dismissal of a chapter 11 case that provides for distributions that do not  
21 follow the Bankruptcy Code's ordinary priority rules without the affected creditors' consent); *In*  
22 *re: Braniff Airways, Inc.*, 700 F.2d 935, 939-40 (5th Cir. 1983) ("debtor and bankruptcy court  
23 should not be able to short circuit the requirements of chapter 11 for confirmation of a  
24 reorganization plan by establishing the terms of the plan *sub rosa* in connection with [a motion  
25 under § 363].")

26 The interim budget does not include any debt service or adequate protection payments.

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1 However, it is important to note that if the Debtor were to account for debt service, the budget  
2 would be even more problematic.

3 Overall, the Debtor has consistently shown an inability to meet its projections and has  
4 failed to come close to doing so. Taking into account the Debtor's unrealistic revenue  
5 projections, historical losses, and current market conditions, the Debtor will undoubtedly  
6 continue to operate at a loss. Simply put, the budget is not feasible. This is precisely why the  
7 Debtor testified at the receivership hearing that a sale of the overall operations is the only  
8 viable alternative. Based on the financial status of the Debtor and its inability to meet its  
9 budget, this Court should deny use of cash collateral.

10 2. The Debtor improperly includes non-estate property.

11 There are insufficient records and evidence to conclude that the Bank is adequately  
12 protected by assets of the estate. As indicated, the financial records do not provide a clear  
13 understanding of the inventory or accounts receivable values. Current accounts receivable  
14 aging reports and inventory reports were requested from the Debtor's counsel; they were  
15 provided after hours on January 27, 2020 and there have been no further sales and no changes  
16 in accounts receivable since the Petition Date. With the understanding that reliance on the  
17 Debtor's assets alone fails to meet the burden of establishing adequate protection, the Debtor  
18 improperly includes assets of RC Farms as well as the Whitelatch Trust in its Motion. Use of  
19 cash collateral should be denied where a debtor attempts to include assets of non-debtor third  
20 parties in the estate for purposes of adequate protection and future revenue. In *In re Negus-*  
21 *Sons, Inc.*, the court denied use of cash collateral where the debtor failed to take into account  
22 the fact that at least \$400,000.00 of accounts receivable and almost \$700,000.00 of future  
23 projected revenue belonged to an affiliated company whose assets debtor had no right to use.  
24 *In re Negus-Sons, Inc.*, 428 B.R. at 513. This is analogous to the Debtor's proposal which  
25 includes revenue and assets of RC Farms and real property owned by the Whitelatch Trust.

26 First, the real property of RC Farms and Whitelatch Trust is **not** property of this

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1 bankruptcy estate and cannot be considered adequate protection provided by the Debtor. Even  
2 if the real property of non-debtor third parties was allowed for this analysis, the real property  
3 already secures the Claar Note and RC Farms Note. Likewise, the real property owned by the  
4 Debtor is subject to a lien by Baker Boyer Bank.

5 The Debtor will argue that it filed a motion for joint administration with RC Farms,  
6 which allows consolidation of property of the estate. This is an incorrect analysis. While they  
7 have filed a motion for joint administration, the Debtor and RC Farms have not been  
8 substantively consolidated and there is no motion to do so. In fact, the Debtor and RC Farms  
9 (at times) indicate that they may have retained separate counsel based on conflicts between the  
10 parties including a direct debtor-creditor relationship. Therefore, the Debtor cannot as a matter  
11 of law treat the assets of RC Farms, or that of non-debtor, the Whitelatch Trust, as property of  
12 its estate.

13 Further, neither the Debtor nor RC Farms can include property of the Whitelatch Trust  
14 as property of either estate or property which could be used for purposes of adequate  
15 protection. This is not only due to the fact that the Whitelatch Trust is not a debtor, the  
16 Whitelatch Trust remains subject to the Order Appointing Receiver and the management and  
17 control of the Receiver – not the principals of the Debtor.

18 The only assets available to the Debtor for purposes of adequate protection are assets of  
19 this estate – in this case, the Claar personal property. Yet, the Debtor does not even offer a  
20 replacement lien for use of HomeStreet's cash collateral (though they refer to it as that in the  
21 proposed order). Instead, the Debtor alleges there is an equity cushion based on unreliable and  
22 unknown inventory numbers, assets of RC Farms and real property of the Whitelatch Trust,  
23 which is currently property of the State Court receivership estate. To rely on an equity cushion,  
24 the Debtor must prove to the Court that a substantial equity cushion exists which would  
25 constitute the indubitable equivalent of HomeStreet's interest. The law is clear that the  
26 existence of a small equity cushion does not constitute adequate protection. *In re Kost*, 102

HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR ORDER:  
(A) AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY & INTERIM USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL; AND (B) AUTHORIZING FINAL USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL - 12

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1 B.R. 829, 831-32 (Bankr. D. Wyo. 1989). As the court is well aware, the Debtor bears the  
2 burden of proof on the issue of adequate protection. 11 U.S.C. § 363(p)(1). **The Debtor**  
3 **cannot meet that burden. Instead, it is proposing to continue operating using**  
4 **HomeStreet's collateral which the Debtor admitted in prior proceedings will result in**  
5 **losses and which the State Court found to be impaired.** The Debtor fails to provide  
6 sufficient records or evidence that the liens currently in place result in adequate protection.  
7 Based on the inability to provide adequate protection, the Debtor's Motion must be denied.

8 3. Retention of control by Receiver and Issue Preclusion.

9 As indicated, pursuant to the Order Appointing Receiver, the Receiver currently retains  
10 authority to manage and control property owned by Whitelatch Trust. This includes the right to  
11 collect the rents and maintain, preserve and protect all property. As also indicated above, the  
12 State Court found good cause to appoint the Receiver over the Debtor and RC Farms. This  
13 includes the findings that (a) the Debtor's and RC Farm's cash deficits and costs from 2016 to  
14 2018 were escalating based upon their tax returns for those years, (b) that the losses were  
15 continuing to increase for 2019 based on financial statements provided by the Debtor and RC  
16 Farms to HomeStreet in 2019 and (c) that the inventory levels decreased by approximately  
17 \$739,597 between September 2, 2019 and September 28, 2019 without a commensurate  
18 increase in cash or accounts receivable and without payment to HomeStreet. Based on the  
19 factual findings, the State Court found as a matter of law that the revenue-producing potential  
20 of the Debtor's property is impaired and that remedies available to HomeStreet are inadequate.

21 These findings constitute issue preclusion under Washington law. Issue preclusion bars  
22 relitigation of an issue in a subsequent proceeding involving the same parties. *Scholz v.*  
23 *Washington State Patrol*, 416 P.3d 1261, 1266 (Wash. Ct. App. 2018) *citing Ullery v. Fulleton*,  
24 162 Wash. App. 596, 602, 256 P.3d 406 (2011). Issue preclusion applies when (1) the issue  
25 decided in the earlier proceeding was identical to the issue presented in the later proceeding; (2)  
26 the earlier proceeding ended in a judgment on the merits; (3) the party against whom issue

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1 preclusion is asserted was a party to, or in privity with a party to, the earlier proceeding; and (4)  
2 application of issue preclusion does not work an injustice on the party against whom it is  
3 applied. *Scholz v. Washington State Patrol*, 416 P.3d at 1257.

4 Here, the parties litigated over the recurring losses and impairment of HomeStreet's  
5 collateral. The findings of fact and conclusions of law in the Order Appointing Receiver  
6 constitute issue preclusion on the issues before the court. The State Court found that the  
7 Debtor will continue to incur losses that impair the value of HomeStreet's collateral requiring  
8 the appointment of the Receiver. Therefore, the Receiver should retain the control granted by  
9 the State Court after the contested receivership hearing with the Receiver remaining in place for  
10 purposes of this bankruptcy. The Receiver is necessary to evaluate the Debtor's business and  
11 explore a sale of the overall operations, subject to further order of this court.

12 Therefore, HomeStreet reserves all of its rights and remedies under the Bankruptcy  
13 Code and other applicable law and does not waive any rights to argue that 11 USC §543(d)  
14 applies in this case. HomeStreet further notifies the court and interested parties that it will be  
15 filing a motion pursuant 543(d) to retain the Receiver in this bankruptcy proceeding.

16 4. Proposed Order.

17 HomeStreet opposes the entry of any order allowing use of cash collateral in this case.  
18 However, if the Court enters an interim order, HomeStreet submits that in order to provide any  
19 sort of adequate protection, it requires (i) the provision of actual replacement liens in the  
20 Debtor's other property and post-petition property as required by § 361 of the Bankruptcy  
21 Code, (ii) the payment of interest only payments, (iii) the opportunity to conduct inspections of  
22 HomeStreet's collateral; (iv) remove all payments proposed to pay prepetition amounts due  
23 (those amounts incurred prior to January 9, 2020 and all amounts for "vintage fruit," which was  
24 all incurred prepetition), and (v) no payments to professionals. A copy of a redlined order with  
25 those revisions to the proposed order submitted by the Debtor is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

26 ///

HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR ORDER:  
(A) AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY & INTERIM USE OF CASH  
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COLLATERAL - 14

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1 CONCLUSION

2 For the reasons set forth above, HomeStreet requests that the Court deny the Debtor's  
3 Motion and any right to use cash collateral.

4 DATED this 27th day of January, 2020.

5 FOSTER GARVEY P.C.

6  
7 By /s/ Tara J. Schleicher

8 Tara J. Schleicher, WSBA #26884

9 Foster Garvey P.C.

10 121 SW Morrison Street, Ste. 1100

11 Portland, Oregon 97204-3141

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HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR ORDER:  
(A) AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY & INTERIM USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL; AND (B) AUTHORIZING FINAL USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL - 15

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Attorneys for Debtor

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

IN AND FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON UNITED STATES

In Re:	Ch 11
<b>CLAAR CELLARS, LLC,</b>	Case No: 20-00044-11

ORDER -1

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Debtor.	(PROPOSED)
	ORDER APPROVING INTERIM USE OF CASH COLLATERAL

This matter came before the Court on the motion of Claar Cellars, LLC ("Debtor") for an order: (a) authorizing the Debtor to use cash collateral on an interim basis; and (b) setting a final hearing on the Debtor's motion to use cash collateral ("Motion"). The following appearances were made at the hearing: (a) Steven H. Sackmann, Toni Meacham for the Debtors; (b) Gary Dyer for the United States Trustee; and (b) Roger W. Bailey for the Co-Debtor; and (c) Homestreet Bank by its counsel, Tara J. Schleicher. Having reviewed the pleadings filed with the Court and having heard the argument of counsel, and having been informed that HomeStreet Bank reserves all of its rights and remedies under the Bankruptcy Code and other applicable law and does not waive any rights to argue that 11 USC §543(d) apply in this case, the Court hereby finds and orders:

~~1. The Motion has been coupled with a request to limit the time for notice and objections. Given the circumstances of this case the Court finds that it is appropriate to limit the time for objections and notice with respect to the Motion and~~

ORDER -2

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1 ~~consider the Motion on an emergency basis. The Debtor's Motion to Shorten Time is~~  
2 ~~hereby granted.~~

3 12. Notice of the motion was ~~provided by certified mail to HomeStreet Bank.~~  
4 ~~proper pursuant to FRBP 2002 and LBR 2002-1.~~

5 23. The Motion, as modified herein, is hereby granted until 5:00 p.m. on the  
6 date set forth below in paragraph 3 for the final hearing on use of cash collateral.;

7 34. The Court hereby sets a final in-court hearing on the Debtor's motion to  
8 use cash collateral for \_\_\_\_\_, 2020. The hearing shall be held at the United  
9 States Bankruptcy Court, \_\_\_\_\_ and shall commence at \_\_\_\_\_. The  
10 Court shall hold a pre-trial conference on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_, 2020 at \_\_\_\_\_ by telephone  
11 conference call. Parties may attend the pre-trial hearing by calling in to the Court's  
12 conference line (509.353.\_\_\_\_).  
13  
14

15 45. Pending the conclusion of the final cash collateral hearing ("**Interim Cash**  
16 **Collateral Period**"), the Debtor is authorized to use the Cash Collateral (as described in  
17 the Motion) ~~including crop proceeds~~ to pay the amounts described in the Debtor's  
18 Budget attached to the Motion (not any budgets associated with RC Farms, LLC.  
19 ~~Homestreet Bank shall promptly sign off on and deliver to the Debtor any Cash~~  
20 ~~Collateral in the form of jointly payable checks in the possession of Homestreet or~~  
21

22 ORDER -3

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1 ~~which are presented to Homestreet by the Debtor after the date of this Order.~~  
2 ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Debtor shall not be authorized to pay the following~~  
3 ~~amounts in the Budget: (a) those amounts that attributable to the time prior to the~~  
4 ~~Petition Date (which will reduce all payments in the Budget listed for the month of~~  
5 ~~January 2020); (b) any amounts beyond the months of February 2020; (c) the \$19,000~~  
6 ~~payments each in January and February 2020 for "vintage fruit"; and (d) \$2,500~~  
7 ~~payments each in January and February 2020 for "legal fees" since those have not been~~  
8 ~~approved by this Court.~~ All Cash Collateral shall immediately be deposited into the  
9 Debtor-in-Possession account.  
10

11  
12 56. During the Interim Cash Collateral Period, the Debtor shall provide to  
13 Homestreet ~~Bank, the Chapter 11 Trustee~~ and any other party requesting special notice,  
14 ~~weekly -a monthly~~ report ("**Weekly Report**") describing: (a) the expenses paid by the  
15 Debtor during the preceding ~~week month~~ on a cash basis; and (b) a comparison of the  
16 actual expenses paid to the expenses estimated by the Budget for such period. The first  
17 ~~Weekly Monthly~~ Report shall be due three (3) days following the first ~~weekmonth~~ of  
18 cash collateral usage pursuant to this Order with subsequent reports due on three (3)  
19 days after the conclusion of each subsequent one (1) ~~weekmonth~~ period. ~~Further, as a~~  
20 ~~condition of use of Cash Collateral, during the Interim Cash Collateral Period, Debtor~~  
21

22 ORDER -4

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1 shall cooperate with and allow HomeStreet Bank to conduct an inspection of Debtor's  
2 inventory at the Debtor's premises.

3 67. The Debtor, with the prior written consent of Homestreet Bank ~~and the~~  
4 ~~Chapter 11 Trustee~~ may use Cash Collateral in excess of the amounts described in the  
5 Budget so long as such amounts are used for paying expenses incurred in the Debtors'  
6 ordinary course of business.

7  
8 78. Under 11 U.S.C. §§361 and 363(e), Homestreet Bank is entitled to adequate  
9 protection of its interests in the Cash Collateral. The Court has allowed the Debtor's use  
10 of Cash Collateral, subject to and expressly conditioned on the provisions of this Order  
11 (collectively, the "Adequate Protection Measures"). Nothing herein shall preclude  
12 Homestreet Bank from asserting at any future time that they are not adequately  
13 protected or that the value of its collateral is at risk of devaluation or loss.

14  
15 89. As one Adequate Protection Measure, and as security for any diminution  
16 in value of the Cash Collateral, Homestreet Bank is hereby granted, effective and  
17 perfected as of the Petition Date, a valid and perfected replacement lien ("Replacement  
18 Lien") on the following ("Replacement Collateral"): (a) all of the real property owned by  
19 Debtor, subject to any valid and perfected mortgage or trust deed in such property; (b)  
20 all shall retain its Real Estate Mortgages and pre-petition personal property of the

21  
22 ORDER -5

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1 Debtor and all personal property and proceeds thereof of the Debtor acquired post-  
2 petition, security interest in all personal property of RC Farms and Claar Cellars, except  
3 2020 crops, including all insurance claims and insurance recoveries related to the  
4 Debtor's assets, including but not limited to inventory of Debtor and crops in which  
5 Claar Cellars may have an insurable interest 2019 crops, specifically including, but not  
6 limited to, the Debtor's right to receive payments from the Federal Crop Insurance  
7 Corporation; and (c) any contract or lease rights of the Debtor.;

8  
9 10. As an additional Adequate Protection Measure, the Debtor shall make  
10 interest only payments to HomeStreet Bank for the portion of January after the Petition  
11 Date and for the entire month of February. The January payment shall be due to  
12 HomeStreet Bank three (3) days after the entry of this Order and the February payment  
13 shall be due to HomeStreet Bank on the day immediately prior to the final hearing  
14 referenced in paragraph 3 above.

15  
16 11. To the extent that the Adequate Protection Measures or other measures  
17 this Court may order fail to provide adequate protection for the interests of Homestreet  
18 Bank in the Cash Collateral, Homestreet Bank shall have super-priority claims under 11  
19 U.S.C. § 507(b).

20  
21  
22 ORDER -6

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1       1~~2~~1. The automatic stay imposed under 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) shall be modified to  
2 permit Debtor and Homestreet Bank to exercise their rights and perform their duties  
3 under this Order, *provided* however that nothing contained in this Order shall authorize  
4 any party to take any collection action against the Debtors without receiving further  
5 authorization from this Court.

6  
7       1~~3~~2. This Order shall be sufficient and conclusive evidence of the validity,  
8 perfection, and priority of the Replacement Liens. No further action, conduct, filing,  
9 recording, or notice of any kind is required to perfect the Replacement Lien or to give  
10 Homestreet Bank the priorities granted in this Order. Homestreet Bank may in its  
11 discretion file and record such financing statements, mortgages, notices of liens, and  
12 other instruments or documents to evidence or perfect the Replacement Lien according  
13 to non-bankruptcy law, and all financing statements, mortgages, notices, and other  
14 documents shall be deemed to have been filed or recorded as of the Petition Date.

15  
16       1~~4~~3. Immediately upon entry by this Court (notwithstanding any applicable  
17 law or rule to the contrary), this Order is valid and binding on and inures to the benefit  
18 of the Debtor and~~&~~ Homestreet Bank and all other creditors of the Debtor, any trustee  
19 ~~or~~ examiner or custodian retained under 11 USC § 543(d), any Court-appointed

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22 ORDER -7

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1 committee in this case, and all other parties in interest and their respective successors  
2 and assigns.

3 15. The Debtor and its principals and employees shall cooperate with  
4 HomeStreet Bank in ensuring that HomeStreet Bank's consultants and appraisers have  
5 access to the Debtor's property (both real and personal) in order to inspect, appraise or  
6 otherwise evaluate Debtor's property.

7  
8 164. The fourteen-day stay provided for in Bankruptcy Rule 4001(a)(3) shall  
9 not apply to this Order.

10 1765. This Court has and shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Order according  
11 to its terms.

12  
13 ///End of Order///  
14  
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22 ORDER -8

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22 ORDER -9

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify on January 27, 2020, I electronically filed the foregoing HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR ORDER: (a) AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY & INTERIM USE OF CASH COLLATERAL; AND (b) AUTHORIZING FINAL USE OF CASH COLLATERAL with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the persons listed below:

- Gary W Dyer Gary.W.Dyer@usdoj.gov
- Metiner G Kimel mkimel@mkimellaw.com, roberta@mkimellaw.com;julie@mkimellaw.com;kimelmr89262@notify.bestcase.com
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- Steven H Sackmann steve@sackmannlaw.com, sackmannlaw@hotmail.com
- Tara J. Schleicher tara.schleicher@foster.com, kesarah.rhine@foster.com
- US Trustee USTP.REGION18.SP.ECF@usdoj.gov

DATED this 27th day of January, 2020.

FOSTER GARVEY PC

*/s/ Tara J. Schleicher*

---

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HOMESTREET BANK'S OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR ORDER:  
(A) AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY & INTERIM USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL; AND (B) AUTHORIZING FINAL USE OF CASH  
COLLATERAL - 16

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